



ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Key West Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

October 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

C/Ops

10 Nov B M st

2.

3.

C/E&PS

n/b l

4.

~~A~~ B/FBIS

14 Nov B

5.

~~B/FBIS~~

6.

7.

PO/RA

11/14 Don

8.

SA/CD

11/14 CD EF

9.

10. ~~PERS~~

C/AS

st

11.

C/B&F/AS

RM

12.

13.

14.

C/AG

y/v

m

15.

Exec. Reg.

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
KEY WEST BUREAU



MAIN P.O. BOX 1056
KEY WEST, FLORIDA 33041-1056

NAVAL AIR STATION

STAT

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(305) 292-5291

TELEX: 803046

FBIS-4080-88

3 November 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Key West Bureau--October 1988

I. GENERAL

[Redacted content]

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II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Haiti--described by TIME in its latest issue as the "land where hope never grows"(see attached)--again played down to expectations this month when yet another group of disgruntled soldiers tried to topple the current leader, General Avril. As usual, our lady in Port-au-Prince, [Redacted], was tuned in from the onset and managed to feed us an account of the events as the story played itself out in the media. A few days later Maria provided full coverage of Avril's first major address to the nation since assuming power in his own coup just a month earlier.

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2. Suriname provided us with some bizarre events this month when Desi Bouterse, the country's strongman, and entourage were arrested at a Sao Paulo shopping center while on holiday in Brazil. The diplomatic imbroglio, which we covered from Paramaribo International Service as well as the shortwave transmitter in the Netherlands Antilles, reportedly started when Bouterse's 20-person armed group was 'mistaken' for common thieves. Bouterse later blamed the DEA for the incident.

3. Last but not least, Fidel was as talkative as usual, dedicating a school and giving the closing remarks to a women's meeting. He also managed to find time to visit ailing Mozambican President Chissano, who had his prostate operated on in Cuba. Later in the month, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid was given full media coverage during his state visit. Fidel came up a winner again during this hoopla, receiving the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle.

B. Technical/Cruising

1. The bureau's efforts to install a remotely tuned receiver in the Embassy in Santo Domingo was delayed this month when the telephone company reneged on an earlier promise and said it had no dedicated phone lines into

that area code. As a result, we will have to use a call-up service, which will force our friends in FED to come up with a different kind of technical fix. We still hope to be up and going by the end of the year. In the meantime, our own surprisingly good reception of Santo Domingo early in the month faded away to next to nothing by the time this monthly report was put to bed.

2. The upgrading of our 12-foot paraclipse baby Roset, which can now pick up a couple of Intelsats that we may be interested in, was finally completed this month. Radio Broadcast Monitor [] now looks forward to collaborating with MOD and Panama as he prepares to cruise out his new TV world.

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3. [] also worked closely this month with the fellows who do our antenna maintenance to provide C/ESG with technical data on the TV signals we receive here. We hope the info, which we pulled together using a borrowed spectrum analyzer, will be useful to the ESG contractor who is scheduled to visit us in early December to demonstrate his blackbox which is intended to reduce TV interference.

4. Senior Monitor/Editor [] provided an invaluable software service this month when she worked out all the necessary voodoo commands to allow us to use our telephone lines and modem connection to send edited Haitian copy plus editorial feedback to [] in Port-au-Prince. Up to now, [] had been growing old waiting for her finished copy, which is wirefiled to the Embassy, to trickle down to her from the Political Section.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. In a change of guard this month, we welcomed [] as the new deputy and bid farewell to []. Anxious as Flor was to escape our Empire of the Sun to the promise of winter snow in Reston, she was not allowed to get away until we gave her "despedida" the proper touch of champagne, pizza, and a well-deserved QSI.

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2. Our two hardworking new teletypists, [] were both promoted to GS-06 this month.

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3. We put [] currently teaching freshman English at two colleges in Connecticut, into processing this month as a monitor/editor. Wanda was born and grew up in Puerto Rico.

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4. [] a local military dependent wife, was also put into processing this month as our part-time administrative assistant. [] will come aboard under the new "Unclassified FBIS" category, which we hope will get her through the front door before the end of the year.

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B. Buildings and Grounds

We started the new fiscal year by replacing the tacky linoleum floors in the kitchens of our houses with good quality tiles. We also installed blinds in townhouses.

IV. VISITS

To the bureau:

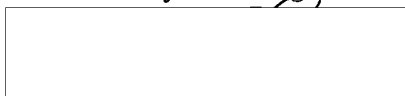
1. [] Panama Bureau Chief, 4 Oct. STAT
2. Navy Lt Bob Nicholson, Operations Officer for Naval Security Group Activity Key West, 5 Oct.
3. [] former Panama Bureau monitor and Key West TDYer, 11 Oct. STAT
4. [] Austrian Bureau teletypist, 27 Oct. STAT

From the bureau:

Bureau Chief to Miami for a Dunn & Bradstreet-sponsored course on hiring and firing, 26 Oct.

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Key West's annual and (in)famous Fantasy Fest--a modern day Halloween and Walpurgis Nacht phantasmagoria--exhausted all but the strongest of bureau celebrants this year. Despite rumors to the contrary, it is not the bureau chief posing as a Roman deity holding a conch shell in the attached photo.



Chief, Key West Bureau

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Attachments:

Fantasy Fest Photo
TIME Haiti article
Property Report

cc: C/Panama Bureau, C/Paraguay Bureau



World

HAITI

In the Land Where Hope Never Grows

Why a dirt-poor nation is destined to remain so

At first light Mercius Pierre rises and leaves the stuffy interior of his mud hut. He opens the door and window that have been shut tight against strangers and the loup-garous, the werewolves that stalk the nights of the superstitious. Pierre's movement stirs up the rats nesting in the thatched roof, as well as his wife Annaise and three young daughters. Annaise lights a fire with a few scarce twigs, then boils coffee with the last drops of water from a gourd and sweetens it with a piece of sugarcane. Her daughter Melina, 6, places the gourd on her head and begins a morning-long walk to a well. Mercius, meanwhile, picks up his wooden hoe, balances it on his shoulder and scuttles down the mountainside to till a field of millet for a *gros neg*, a landowning peasant. If he is lucky, he will earn 60¢ for his day's work.

So begins another day in the "other republic," as rural Haiti is known. Governments come and go in Port-au-Prince, but daily life in the western hemisphere's poorest country remains a tedious grind, with little chance for Mercius and the hundreds of thousands of other landless peasants to improve their lot. Hope flared briefly in 1986, when Haitians rebelled and forced "President-for-Life" Jean-Claude Duvalier into exile. Since then, the government has changed hands three times, most recently last month, when a coup installed the regime of Lieut. General Prosper Avril. No matter how good Avril's intentions are, however, Haiti is so dirt poor, literally, that it may never flourish again.

As desperate as life is in Port-au-Prince's slums, a truer picture of Haiti's plight emerges in the countryside, where some 75% of the country's 6.3 million people live. Land is both the hope of these peasants and the yoke that dooms them to poverty. Over the years, land parcels have shrunk to handkerchief size through repeated division among descendants and illegal seizures by landowners. Even the practice of voodoo has had an effect: some peasants have been forced to sell their land to pay for elaborate religious rituals for dead relatives.

Decades of misuse have left the earth spent and barren; today only 2% of Haiti is forested. The rape of trees began in co-



A woman searches for firewood on a northwestern plain. Once, rain forests ruled the land

Decades of misuse have turned the lush earth barren, creating tropical desert.

lonial times with the export of hardwoods, used for the production of everything from dyes to ships. These days trees are the peasants' only real cash crop. A muddy brown ring surrounds Haiti's coast as the topsoil erodes and dissolves into the turquoise Caribbean, leaving behind what amounts to tropical desert. Reforestation efforts are outpaced by the country's demand for charcoal, a critical fuel in the urban areas.

Victims of hurricanes, drought, debts, superstition and disease, peasants are constantly preyed upon. Those with a bit of land are hesitant to improve it for fear of attracting the attention of covetous *gros negs*, who often hire corrupt lawyers to steal the land on one pretext or another. The rural police, notaries and Tonton Macoutes also seize property with a flourish of phony documents and a bag of city tricks. Even those who try to help the peasants often end up hurting them. When African swine fever hit the pig population of Haiti several years ago, Haitian authorities, under U.S. insistence, slaughtered all the peasants' hardy black Creole pigs. Unable to afford the new, imported white pigs or provide for their finicky tastes, most peasants suffered a severe decline in their standard of living.

The lure of escape is beginning to re-

place the dream of land ownership for many rural Haitians. On the beach outside the southern town of Petite-Rivière-de-Nippes, peasants are building three large boats, each capable of carrying 100 illegal immigrants to Florida. A youngster eyes the boats wistfully. "There is nothing for us here," he says. Some peasant families sell their land or chip in money to send their smartest relative to be a "boat person." They are dispatched to America in the hope they will find jobs and send money home. When the boat people return, they are often shocked at how life has deteriorated. "I cried and cried to see how poor my family was," said a young man who works as a busboy in Orlando. "I gave them all I had and left penniless after only three days."

Back in the Central Plateau, Annaise is preparing her family's single daily meal. She straightens her back, picks up a 20-lb. pestle and begins the rhythmic pounding of two handfuls of *petit mil*, or sorghum, in a wooden mortar. She cooks the meal in an ancient black iron bowl, scraping the remains from the bottom. None of her children are able to attend school this year, she says, because she cannot afford the registration fee of less than \$3. "I don't sing anymore," she adds quietly. "I'm sad."

—By Cristina Garcia.
Reported by Bernard Diederich/Central Plateau

NONEXPENDABLE PROPERTY

Property Received: 1 Victor, VPC II, Model 2620-1 PC
Serial Number: 801010368
Complete with monochrome monitor and keyboard

Property Transferred: None

Property Disposed: None